

TROPICAL STORM AMY (15W)

Throughout most of July, an area of low sea-level pressure persisted in the region of the Gulf of Tonkin. This low-pressure area was a regional feature at the western end of the over-water portion of the monsoon trough [see Figure 3-14-1 in Brendan's (14W) summary]. For many days, thick layered cloudiness with embedded deep convection covered southern China, portions of Southeast Asia, and much of the South China Sea. On 29 July, an area of persistent convection associated with a low-level cyclonic circulation that had previously been located over Hainan Dao, moved over water. Based upon synoptic data and satellite imagery (Figure 3-15-1), the first warning on Tropical Storm Amy was issued at 290600Z. Amy reached an estimated peak intensity of 40 kt (20 m/sec) at 300000Z while over the Gulf of Tonkin. Moving slowly westward, it began to weaken while still over water, and later dissipated over land south of Hanoi.

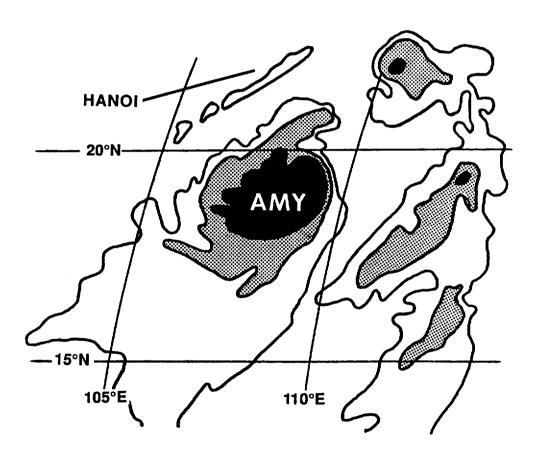


Figure 3-15-1 Schematic illustration of Amy's deep convection as it intensifies over water to the west of Hainan Dao. Cloud-top temperatures are indicated: outer contour = -31 $^{\circ}$ C, shaded region \leq -54 $^{\circ}$ C, black region \leq -70 $^{\circ}$ C. (Adapted from 290424Z July enhanced infrared imagery.)